

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 9, 2011

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Docket No. CP10-480-000, MARC I Hub Line Project

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

I am writing to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to issue its final decision on the MARC I Pipeline project in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. The MARC I project will serve as a long-term investment in vital energy infrastructure. It also holds enormous promise for Pennsylvania as an immediate generator of new jobs and economic growth.

The estimated economic benefits of this project are extraordinary. Two-thirds of the MARC I pipeline's nearly \$300 million investment will stay in Pennsylvania providing a sorely needed economic boost. The pipeline construction alone will immediately create 600 new, high-paying jobs. Pennsylvania consumers will also benefit long-term as the pipeline will optimize competitive domestic natural gas supplies. It will bolster existing infrastructure serving the eastern interconnect and enhance America's energy independence and security by helping to ensure a safe and reliable supply of domestic natural gas.

As I understand, FERC Staff issued a 300-page Environmental Assessment (EA) in May finding that the MARC I project, with appropriate mitigating measures, does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. We understand that, in the preparation of the EA, FERC worked diligently in an open, transparent process involving many stakeholders to ensure that the project will be undertaken within the strongest environmental and ecological considerations.

However, since FERC Staff issued this recommended approval, third parties are attempting to thwart FERC's authority and impair the economics of this critical energy infrastructure project. These parties are not impacted by the pipeline project itself; rather, they appear to be using a FERC proceeding in an effort to advocate and affect national energy policies and tangential issues associated with shale gas.

This is particularly concerning as we have learned that the construction schedule is precariously fragile and could easily force the construction of the pipeline to be delayed by a year or longer due to special accommodations for environmental concerns, including those associated with spawning fish and migrating birds. Delaying the final decision will most

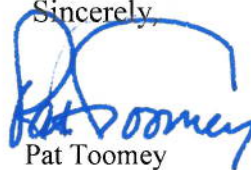
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certainly delay the anticipated benefits of this project at a time when Pennsylvania direly needs the investment, jobs, and infrastructure.

I look forward to your response and would greatly appreciate you keeping our staff informed as you take your next steps.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator